



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE  
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PRODUCTION – DECEMBER 2015

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on December 1 conditions, **dry bean** production for 2015 is forecast at 717,000 hundredweight, up 19 percent from the 603,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Yields are expected to average 1,500 pounds per acre, down from 1,630 pounds per acre last year. Growers expect to harvest 47,800 acres this year, up 10,800 acres from the 37,000 acres harvested last year. As of September 27, Montana's dry bean harvest was estimated to be 95 percent complete, compared to 79 percent last year and the 5-year average of 73 percent.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **dry edible beans** is forecast at 29.7 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.76 million acres, up 2 percent from 2014. Harvested area is forecast at 1.71 million acres, 2 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,743 pounds per acre, a decrease of 10 pounds from last year.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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